

Steer the future of development: Copilot and AI in Microsoft Power Platform



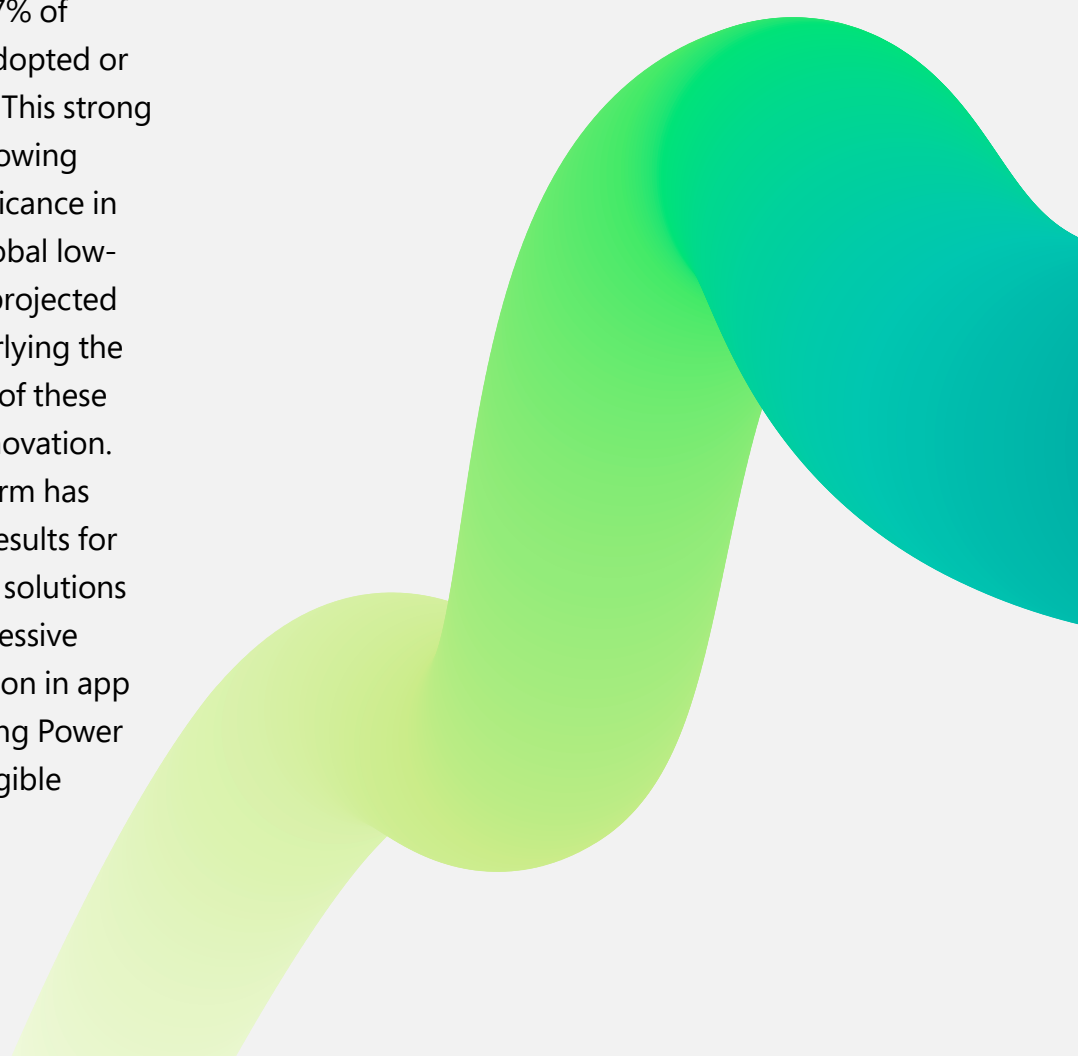
Developers are the DNA of digital organisations, driving innovation at scale and modernising business operations. Like many other professionals, they are facing unique, evolving challenges in their workflows. As workloads increase, developers have had to navigate how to complete work more efficiently to keep up with the shifting landscapes of demands on their time and skills.

At an organisational level, businesses are actively seeking innovative technological solutions to address these challenges. The demand for low-code solutions is skyrocketing with more than 87% of organisations having already adopted or planning to adopt these tools.¹ This strong adoption rate highlights the growing recognition of low code's significance in enabling innovation. In fact, global low-code development revenue is projected to increase 20% in 2023,² underlying the increasing utility and necessity of these tools for driving continuous innovation. Indeed, Microsoft Power Platform has already delivered exceptional results for companies that develop digital solutions using these tools. With an impressive 140% ROI and 45% cost reduction in app development, businesses utilising Power Platform have experienced tangible benefits.³

45%

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Within this landscape, AI-assisted development has become a paramount tool, helping developers streamline the development process, enhance productivity and unlock new levels of innovation. AI-assisted development refers to the integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies into the development workflow to augment and support developers' tasks. Microsoft Copilot, available across various products within Power Platform, provides similar experiences and benefits by offering intelligent suggestions, automated code completion and enhanced development assistance.

Copilot enables a wider range of users to write code more efficiently, reduce manual effort and gain insights and recommendations to accelerate the development process.



1.6x

more likely

by the end of 2023, growing at approximately 32% a year⁴

High performing organisations are 1.6 times more likely to engage non-technical employees in creating AI applications using emerging low-code or no-code programs, which speeds up the creation of AI applications.⁴ AI-assisted development tools within Microsoft Power Platform have become indispensable allies for developers. Organisations are witnessing increased business efficiency and value through these tools, enabling them to drive digital transformation and stay ahead in today's competitive landscape. Harnessing the power of AI, businesses can deliver solutions faster and thrive in an era of rapid technological advancement.



Business leaders and their role in implementing AI solutions

Business decision-makers can empower their organisations' digital transformation with AI capabilities in Power Platform. These capabilities help developers automate repetitive tasks, spend more time focusing on creative problem solving and streamline the development process, providing an advantage over traditional development cycles.

Accelerated development:

By harnessing the power of AI, Power Platform tools enable your organisation to accelerate the development process. These tools automate repetitive and time-consuming tasks, minimising the effort required to create applications and features. With Copilot in Power Apps, for example, users can build model-driven apps from scratch in under five minutes using conversational, natural language interactions, a process that would otherwise take hours.

With faster development cycles, you can bring innovative solutions to market at an unprecedented speed, gaining a competitive advantage and capturing new opportunities swiftly. In a Microsoft survey of more than 4,000 employees and business decision makers, 89% of those who had access to automation and AI-powered tools said they felt more fulfilled because they could spend time on work that really matters.⁵ Using GitHub Copilot, 96% of professional developers report increased speed on what they would otherwise categorise as repetitive tasks.⁶



Improved productivity and simplified cross-platform integration:

In addition to increasing speed, next-generation AI unlocks new levels of productivity. In a survey, GitHub research found that 88% of developers were not only able to get tasks done more quickly using AI-powered GitHub Copilot, but also 74% said it enabled them to focus on more satisfying work,⁶ leading to enhanced productivity. AI-assisted developer tools offered by Power Platform also foster productivity with simplified cross-platform integration, breaking down barriers between developers, business users and IT teams.

Working across Power Apps, Power Automate, Copilot Studio and AI Builder, next-generation AI lowers barriers to build and launch solutions while simplifying creation. Copilot revolutionises the way developers work, introducing a novel approach that has significant benefits in the low-code space. When a developer builds skills that prompt Copilot in one Power Platform product, it holistically enhances the user experience, making the utilisation of Copilot across different products more intuitive and natural.

Optimised cost:

Traditional development cycles often come with significant resource investments, leading to higher costs. However, embracing AI-assisted development processes can drive substantial cost optimisation within your organisation. These tools effectively automate manual tasks, reduce debugging efforts and optimise resource allocation, resulting in significant cost savings. Developers who leverage GitHub Copilot, for instance, report achieving tasks in 55% less time compared to those who don't, directly translating into reduced development costs. By incorporating cost-effective measures through AI-assisted tools, you can achieve optimal cost efficiency while enhancing your development practices.



Increased business agility:

Power Platform's low-code AI features empower all developers, regardless of how much code-first experience they have, to actively contribute to application development. This democratisation of development enhances any organisation's agility and flexibility. With the ability to use natural language to create digital solutions and develop in new ways, business users can quickly build applications, without needing extensive coding expertise and respond rapidly to changing business requirements.

With Copilot, these users can explain in natural language what type of app they want to create while also leveraging developer feedback through natural language to refine the app in Power Platform.

“The app I built in Power Apps isn't complex, but it definitely solved a complex business problem.”

Darina Nolan

*Process Improvement Lead in the
Finance Business Unit at Vodafone*

Darina's app was used to reduce customer payments managed by her team by 40%.⁷ That's not bad for someone without any previous development training or experience.

Through leveraging low-code AI capabilities, any organisation can innovate and save valuable time and effort while staying ahead in a fast-paced, digital landscape.

Copilot: a whole new way of working

We already know that developers all over the world are using AI to code faster, focus on business logic over boilerplate and do what matters most: build great software. AI can turn natural language prompts into code, speed up test generation and filter out vulnerable coding patterns. With Copilot capabilities in Power Platform, organisations can enable developers to unleash creativity, unlock productivity and uplevel their skills at even greater speeds. Embracing low-code AI features allows organisations to deliver innovative solutions faster, drive operational efficiency and stay ahead of the competition. Power Platform's AI-assisted development tools are the catalysts that will propel any organisation towards a future defined by digital excellence.

**Learn more and follow updates about
Copilot and AI:**
cloudblogs.microsoft.com/powerplatform/

Sources

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